

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1506

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: AEGEAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CLASH

REF: IZMIR 336

1. FOLLOWING THREE WEEKS OF GROWING TENSION MARKED BY SCATTERED, NONVIOLENT STUDENT BOYCOTTS OF AREA JUNIOR COLLEGES AND AEGEAN UNIVERSITY (AU) FACULTIES AND DEPARTMENTS, FIGHTING AGAIN BROKE OUT ON JANUARY 12 AT BORNOVA CAMPUS OF AU SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING FACULTIES. SOME HUNDRED RIGHTIST STUDENTS, REINFORCED BY ANOTHER SEVENTY OR MORE "WORKERS", ENTERED CAMPUS AND ATTACKED BOYCOTTING STUDENTS IN DORMITORIES AND CAFETERIA. REPORTEDLY ALERTED INTER ALIA BY PISTOL SHOTS, JANDARMA (WHO HAD BEEN POSITIONED SEMI-PERMANENTLY AT THE CAMPUS) MOVED IN TO RESTORE

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ORDER. EYEWITNESSES CLAIM THAT SEVERAL PERSONS INJURED DURING CLASH BETWEEN STUDENT GROUPS, BUT CURIOUSLY, AUTHORITIES

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REPORT NO CASUALTIES HOSPITALIZED. POLICE REPORT THREE

PERSONS LIGHTLY INJURED. FOLLOWING DISPERSAL OF CONTENDING ELEMENTS AT THE CAMPUS, PART OF THE RIGHTIST GROUP STAGED SIT-DOWN ON NEARBY INTERSECTION OF IZMIR-ANKARA HIGHWAY.

2. ACCORDING POLICE SOURCES, 152 PERSONS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY OF WHOM 78 FOUND TO BE WORKERS -- NOT STUDENTS; AFTER PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, THOSE SOURCES CHARACTERIZE INTRUDING GROUPS AS RIGHTIST "COMMANDOS", WHO CLAIMED THEY WERE SEEKING DEFEAT UNIVERSITY (LEFTIST) BOYCOTTING ELEMENTS. ONE REPORTEDLY STATED HIS GROUP WAS STAGING "MANHUNT FOR COMMUNISTS". POLICE CONFIRM THEY SEIZED AT LEAST 10 PISTOLS, SOME DYNAMITE, SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF KNIVES, CHAINS SCREW DRIVERS AND SMALL ARMS AMMO FROM THE RIGHISTS.

3. GIVEN SIZEABLE NUMBER OF ARMED RIGHTISTS INVOLVED, REMARKABLE THAT CASUALTIES WERE SO LIGHT; PERHAPS SPEEDY JANDARMA INTERVENTION PREVENTED REAL VIOLENCE. IN ANY CASE, LOCAL UNIVERSITY, POLICE AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE REPORTEDLY VERY CONCERNED OVER SITUATION, WHICH THEY BELIEVE

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WILL WORSEN. UNIVERSITY RECTOR ORDERED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FACULTIES CLOSED THROUGH FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, AND POLICE AND JANDARMA ARE POSTED IN STRENGTH AT ALL AU AND IZMIR AREA ASSOCIATED INSTITUTIONS.

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